

We claim:

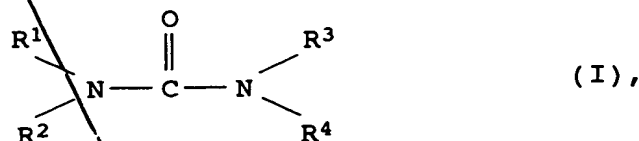
1. A process for the preparation of a polyisocyanate which contains one or more biuret groups by reacting

a) an aliphatic or cycloaliphatic isocyanate containing two or more isocyanate groups (isocyanate a) with

b) a tertiary alcohol or a mixture of water and a tertiary alcohol (biuretizing agent b)

at from 100 to 250°C, which comprises carrying out the reaction in the presence

c) of a stabilizer (c) ^{consisting essentially of} ~~which constitutes~~ a catalytic amount of urea, ammonia, biuret, a urea derivative of the formula I

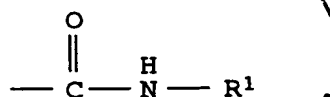


in which R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl or C₅ to C₁₀ aryl, or

a carboxamide of the formula II



in which R⁵ is C₁ to C₁₂ alkyl which is unsubstituted or in which 1, 2 or 3 hydrogen atoms are replaced by a radical



2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the isocyanate (a) is a C₄ to C₂₀²⁰ diisocyanate or triisocyanate.

3. A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the isocyanate (a) is hexamethylene-1,6-diisocyanate.
4. A process as claimed in any of ~~claims 1 to 3~~ ^{claim 1}, wherein the biuretizing agent (b) is a tertiary alcohol or a mixture of a tertiary alcohol and ~~water including~~ up to 80 mol% of water based on the sum of the components of the mixture.
5. A process as claimed in any of ~~claims 1 to 4~~ ^{claim 1}, wherein the tertiary alcohol is tert-butanol.
6. A process as claimed in any of ~~claims 1 to 5~~ ^{claim 1}, wherein from 0.5 to 20 mol% of biuretizing agent (b) ^{is} are employed, based on the isocyanate groups in (a).
7. A process as claimed in any of ~~claims 1 to 6~~ ^{claim 1}, wherein from 0.01 to 2.0 mol% of a stabilizer (c) ^{is} are employed, based on the isocyanate groups in (a).
8. A process as claimed in any of ~~claims 1 to 7~~, wherein the reaction is carried out at from 140 to 220°C.
9. A process as claimed in any of ~~claims 1 to 7~~ ^{claim 1}, wherein the polyisocyanate containing biuret groups is prepared and then unreacted isocyanate (a) is removed from it down to a content of less than 0.5% by weight, based on the polyisocyanate which contains biuret groups.